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Commentary: *FIPPA deal bad for Canada* - p.3

DIDSBURY REVIEW

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2013

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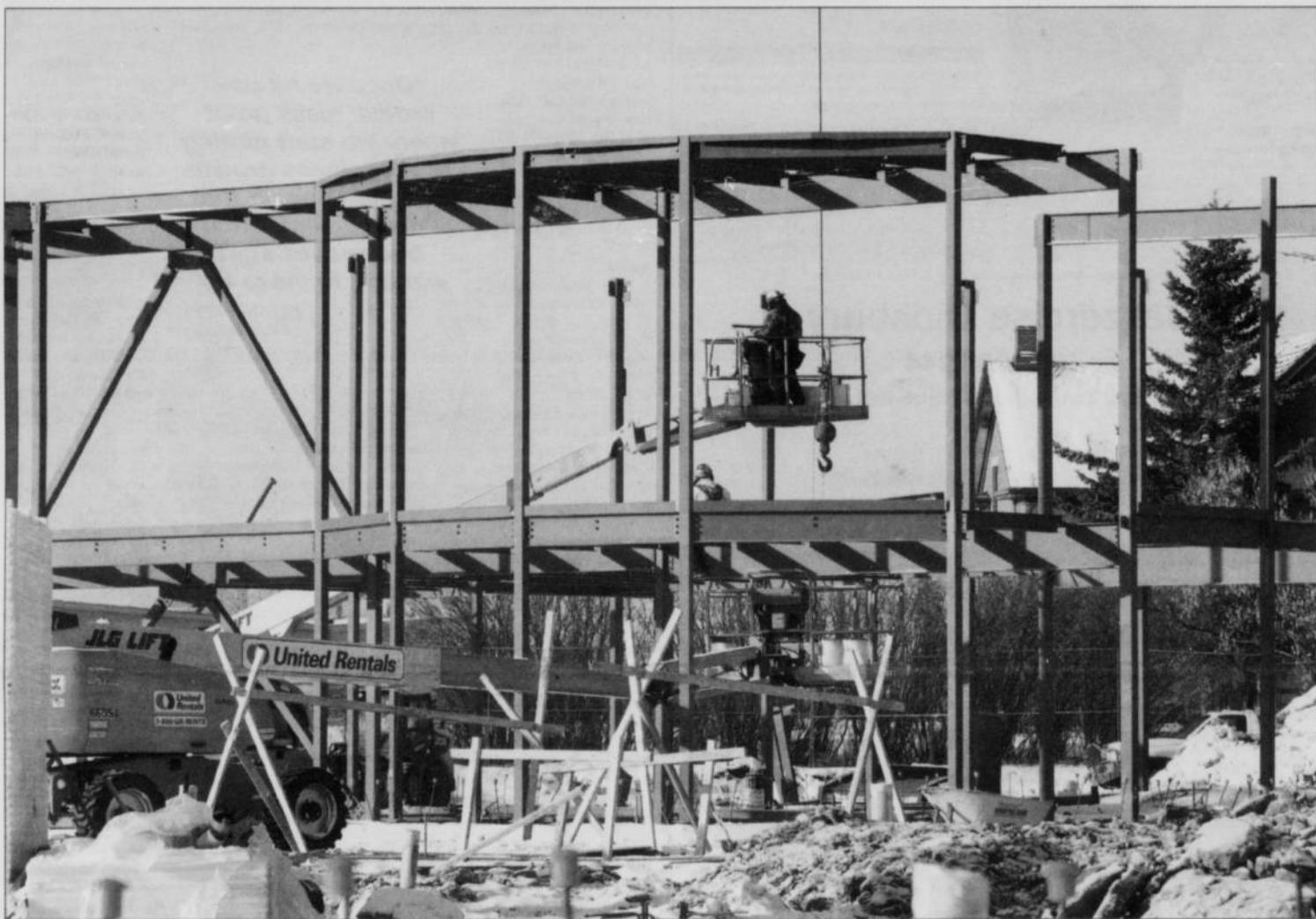
Volume 26 Issue 01



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Kevin Vink/Didsbury Review

TAKING SHAPE - Stuart Olsen of Dominion Contractors places girders for the new Bethany Care Centre on 15 Avenue.

Mayor reviews 2012, looks at year ahead

Discusses local economy and council's plans moving into 2013

BY KEVIN VINK
Review Staff

The Town of Didsbury saw many challenges and opportunities in 2012 and council is optimistic that the town will do well in the coming year too.

Mayor Brian Wittal noted that the municipality is expected to end the year with a budget surplus of at least \$400,000, due mostly to prudent management

of administration. The final number was not yet calculated at the time of press, but he confirmed it will be at least \$400,000.

The majority of the surplus is from savings in salaries, after not replacing vacated positions over the past year, he said.

"To date, management and employees have worked very hard to try to not have to do it until it's absolutely necessary," added Wittal.

"I know going forward, planning for our budget for the coming year, we're asking for the same diligence from them, to make sure that we are as lean and as mean as we can possibly be."

During the past year, the municipality tried to cinch up the budget in other ways too, trying to manage what they had.

"I know coming into 2012, as council was deliberating our

2012 budget, it was with cautious optimism," he said.

"We've been continuing to look at (the economy) and I suppose at some time here, things are going to kick loose and start to improve here in Alberta. We want to be prepared for when that opportunity starts showing up."

As indicators began to show that the oil and gas sector was ramping up again, council decid-

ed the time to prepare is now, he noted.

"So we felt that it was time for us to move forward with some of our economic development strategies for growth for Didsbury in the future."

"Not wanting to miss this next economic opportunity was what pushed council to want to move forward with the Shantz development."

See Review on p. 2

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Rocky View Weekly
Serving several rural areas surrounding
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Circulation 17,000

Total Circulation 40,000

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Published February 5, 2013
Advertising deadline:
January 22, 2013

**Rocky View
Weekly**

Mayor's talk

Continued from p. 1

Another project municipal officials have been looking at is the upgrading of the sewer lagoons, because without an increased capacity, the town cannot expand, he said.

After much deliberation with the provincial government, the town secured a grant of \$6.2 million up front to kick-start the lagoon project.

Because of this, the town is now able to start work on it right away, he said.

A new fire hall will be constructed in the next couple of years as well, he added.

With these initiatives, along with the Municipal Development Plan, the Recreation Master Plan and completion of the Downtown Heritage Plan, the town has been looking ahead and trying to put Didsbury in the best position for the coming years, he noted.

"For a number of years I've always said, 'It's coming, it's coming. We've got to be ready. We have to have our plans in place, we have to have our policies and our documents,'" said Wittal.

"We have to have everything up to date so that when development does start and does happen that things are current - that we're ready for it and prepared for it."

The town has been preparing, and he said that it may be seeing the first signs of an economic upswing.

"This year for example,"

he said, "we're 25 per cent over and above our best year ever for permit numbers, and that was to the end of the third quarter."

There have been some significant projects happening in town, he noted, like the Marco development, Heritage Crossing, the Bethany Care Centre, and the Cayenne Holdings development.

"And those are all big-budget facilities. We're starting to see that commercial growth that I've always believed that we

"Once we hit that critical mass point where we start getting new business growth and start seeing that development, other businesses start wanting to move in."

BRIAN WITIAL,
Didsbury Mayor

years.

"Once we hit that critical mass point where we start getting new business growth and start seeing that development, other businesses start wanting to move in," he added.

In 2013, he said many of these developments will be completed. Along with the completion, many of these projects will have significant job prospects.

The potential for long-term employment means there is more potential for new residents, and with

some other stores slated to come in, there will also be many entry-level jobs for students and semi-retired residents, he noted.

"It just helps to make it more attractive to encourage families to move here" said Wittal. "The educational system, as far as I'm concerned, it's a standalone-one of the best that we have within this entire region ... that is definitely an attraction."

He noted that one of the keys is to attract new residents who can work and live in town, which will only help to bolster the town's economy.

That action will start a chain reaction in the local economy, he said, because local businesses start making more money, then more businesses will want to move in because there is a strong local economy.

"We've got to feed that economy. And from the town's perspective, what we want to do is have the right things in place, being very cognizant of the cost of them, to encourage individuals to live, stay, and work here as much as possible."



GENEROUS DONATION - Joyce Waters of the Knox United Thrift Shop presents a cheque for \$2,000 to Bruce Smith of the Didsbury Lions. Smith said that the money will be put towards the Lions' Shuttle Bus Renewal Fund.

Photo submitted

Editorial

Political promises not worth much

While it may be too much to ask all politicians to keep all their promises all of the time, West Central Albertans would at the very least like to see the Redford Tories keep some of the promises they made during the provincial election only a few short months ago.

In particular, when the PCs assured voters that they would do their best to keep the books balanced – so ratepayers wouldn't end up footing the bill for poor government fiscal management – residents took them at their word.

Yet as the new year gets underway, the official Opposition says the Tories no longer have any intention of keeping that key election promise.

"After promising a balanced budget and billions of dollars in new spending during the election, it is clear that Ms. Redford is a premier who is willing to say or do anything to get elected and then break her word," said Wildrose leader Danielle Smith. "Now, during a time of economic uncertainty around the world, this government is leaving a legacy of waste and debt asking future Albertans to clean up the mess."

The other opposition parties have joined the Wildrose in questioning the Tories' willingness to keep election assurances, and specifically the fiscal management promise.

NDP leader Brian Mason says the PCs deliberately mislead voters about the province's finances in order to win another majority government. "We're going to see serious cuts (to services) across the board because the government will not address the question of revenues," said Mason.

Liberal Leader Dr. Raj Sherman says the government has failed to "identify government waste and redeploy wasted management or mismanaged dollars to the front lines."

For its part, the government, and Finance Minister Doug Horner in particular, say lower than projected resource revenues are to blame for any budget shortfalls the province may experience in 2013.

"I'm really concerned about the short term and the medium term," said Horner. "If we can solve the market access piece, the long-term outlook for Alberta is still very robust."

As 2013 gets underway, the Tories find themselves in very serious labour disputes with both Alberta doctors and Alberta teachers. Whether they can get out of those stalemates without creating even more fiscal uncertainty for the province remains anyone's guess.

With Tory MLAs' 2012 election promise to keep the books balanced now apparently heading for the trash heap, Albertans may be in for some very unpleasant surprises in 2013. And when Premier Redford promises, as she recently did, no new taxes and continued good service over the next 12 months, what value, if any, should residents put on those assurances?

DIDSBURY REVIEW

Published weekly by:
Mountain View Publishing Inc.
Box 760, 2017 - 19 Ave., Didsbury, Alberta T0M 0W0
Phone: (403) 335-3301 Fax: (403) 335-8143

Editorial Content email: review@didsbury.greatwest.ca
Advertising: achambers@olds.greatwest.ca
Classified Content: reception@didsbury.greatwest.ca
Website: www.didsburyreview.ca



Publisher: Murray Elliott
General Manager: Alan Chambers
Managing Editor: Lea Smaldon
Advertising: Joan Duval
Photographer: Noel West
Editor/Reporter: Kevin Vink



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Publications Mail Registration No. 07899

Opinion



Commentary

New Canada-China trade deal is bad for Canada

BRIAN SEAMAN

Troy Media

December is always a hectic month. The last thing on our minds should be a trade agreement with China.

Unfortunately, the Canada China Investment Promotion and Protection Act (FIPPA), signed by the prime minister and China's president last September in Vladivostok, Russia, should concern all of us because it trades away our laws and rights.

Among other things, FIPPA opens the door for China to play a leading role in Canada's petroleum sector with little in return for Canadians. The deadline for ratification is Dec. 31, 2012. Given Stephen Harper's penchant for secrecy and aversion to democratic process, this date is surely not random. He must hope we'll be distracted enough snogging under the mistletoe that he can quietly slip in this Trojan horse that will allow a foreign power unprecedented influence over Canadian sovereignty.

There's much wrong with FIPPA, but I will focus on three areas that are compromised:

- i) provincial rights,
- ii) legal rights of Canadian businesses and investors, and
- iii) environmental protection laws.

Firstly, Part B, Article 2, Section 3 of FIPPA is arguably unconstitutional from a provincial rights perspective. The offensive provision reads: "Each Contracting Party shall take all necessary measures (emphasis added) in order to ensure observance of the provisions of this Agreement by provincial governments." This suggests a federal government may be permitted to get around the otherwise relevant sections of our nation's

constitution.

All necessary measures leave much for the imagination. From a practical perspective, it is far easier for China to impose any agreement on its provinces than for Canada's federal government to do the same here. This begs a critical question. Is it morally right and politically wise for the federal government to impose an agreement on the provinces that affects their rights without consulting them? This provision could be unconstitutional because, according to section 92(5) of the Constitution Act 1867, provinces have exclusive jurisdiction over management and sale of public land within their borders. This means the provinces have exclusive right to sell and set the conditions for sale of Crown land within their jurisdictions and to approve or reject the granting of leases on or under provincial Crown land. The provinces also have the right to conduct environmental assessments of proposed projects on or under provincial land.

What would the federal government do if the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) were to be the lead partner and/or the main investor in a future pipeline project and the company insisted the pipeline go west in spite of opposition from the British Columbia government, our First Nations peoples, and any other B.C. residents or other Canadians concerned about threats to the environment from oil spills in an area with hundreds of islands and, in places, treacherous straits?

Secondly, I want to stress in the gravest of ways how dangerous Article 10 (expropriations) and Article 15 (disputes between Canada and China) are for Canadian businesses and investors. Canadian investments and businesses in China

will be at the mercy of a Chinese legal system if and when their businesses are expropriated. Of even greater seriousness is Article 15, which removes access to the courts to settle disputes. This is an affront to Canadian sovereignty. It also deprives Canadian businesses and investors from access to one of the most respected and transparent legal systems in the world.

Finally, FIPPA undermines existing Canadian environmental protection laws and hobbles our sovereign right to make such laws in the future. The problematic language is found in Part D, Article 33, Section 2: "Provided that such measures are not applied in an arbitrary or unjustifiable manner, or do not constitute a disguised restriction on international trade or investment . . ." The section then goes on to say either party can maintain existing measures or adopt new measures, including environmental measures. ("Measure" is defined in FIPPA's Definition Section to include laws and regulations.)

I can just imagine Canadian A-list corporate lawyers retained by CNOOC at \$500 to \$1,000 per hour making lots of hay arguing how that provision should be interpreted. You can bet your paycheque it won't be in favour of strong regulations to protect the environment.

So, not only could extant laws face reinterpretation to suit the wishes of the Chinese, but writers of future environmental laws could find themselves needing to consult with the Chinese to ensure such laws are acceptable to them.

Brian Seaman is a human rights/civil liberties researcher with the Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre and columnist for Troy Media.

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Letters to the editor: Letters submitted for publication must be signed and bear the address, phone number and e-mail address of the writer. Please keep your letter to 500 words or less. Letters may be edited for grammar, punctuation, spelling, length and libel. Unsigned letters will NOT be published. Use of pseudonyms will be permitted only under special circumstances, provided the writer's identity is known to The Review.

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email: abpress@telus.net

Didsbury 2012: The year in Review

JANUARY

Sober drivers wishing otherwise

Last January thieves rammed the storefront of Mountain View Liquor with a truck that had been stolen from Chestermere.

Police determined that no cash was taken, but a large quantity of alcohol was. They reported that three males broke into the store and then drove off in another vehicle.

Tri-Community Transit startup

The pilot project of the Tri-Community Transit (TCT) launched late last January with plans to continue until July.

After receiving support from the towns utilizing the service, TCT organizers decided to keep on with the pilot project until the end of 2012.

As of this point, after seeing the usage that residents are getting out of TCT, the Town of Didsbury has expressed interest in helping support the project with another year of service.

The town may be putting another \$5,000 into the service, which provides reasonably-priced transportation to and from Didsbury, Cremona, Carstairs, Airdrie and Calgary.

Arts society becomes official

The Mountain View Arts Society was approved for its non-profit society status last January, after a successful arts festival in the summer of 2011.

The society also held an arts festival last September, which was met with many visitors and great success.



"Owner, Elvin Janzen, presenting the winner of our Christmas Turkey Draw, Robert & Patricia Gusella of Carstairs, AB"

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, January 22 at 7:00 pm.
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING: Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m.
MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION: Wednesday, January 9 at 4:30 p.m.
Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in Council Chambers at the Town Office.

FEBRUARY

Commercial growth trends

Commercial/industrial growth was slowing down last February. Institutional development was up by four permits and \$120,000 from 2010. Residential statistics indicated 26 permits were issued for a total of \$3,805,000 in 2010.

However, for the same time frame, commercial, industrial, and other developments were down, at \$152,849.

Statistics from 2012 are much more promising, and will be published in *The Review* soon.

Dog attack charges laid

A horrific dog attack that occurred last year came to a conclusion in court last February.

Andrea Marie Strang was convicted of two charges of allowing a dog to bite a person and allowing a dog to cause damage to property, both Mountain View County bylaws.

Strang's two dogs—of the Akita breed—were destroyed following the incident.

MARCH

Education tax hike

Provincial education property taxes rose by 10.2 per cent last March. The provincially-imposed hike was not well received by residents or town council.

The hike was the third highest in the county, after Sundre's 10.8 per cent increase, and Carstairs' hike of 12 per cent.

Colts lose in playoffs

After a strong start going into the

playoffs in the 2011-2012 hockey season, the Mountainview Colts lost to the Blackfalds Ford Wranglers after a four-game loss in the north division finals.

The team finished in fifth place in their division last year.

Wildrose office in Olds

Wildrose MLA Bruce Rowe officially opened his office in Olds in mid-March, preparing himself for the April election. In the election, Rowe won the seat for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

The fledgling Wild Rose Party took less seats than anticipated in the election, but Rowe and his party have since been giving it their all, taking their role as official Opposition seriously.

Dragons basketball

The Didsbury Dragons Junior Varsity Girls basketball team captured first place at the South-Central Zone Championships in March.

APRIL

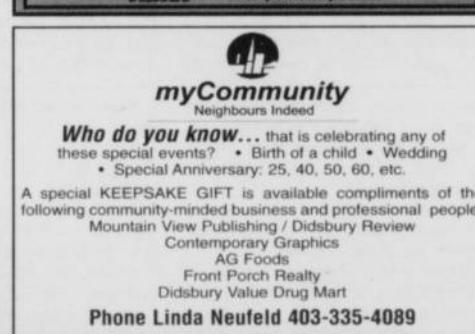
Signs of trouble

Directional signage in Didsbury was a hot topic last March. The three-year, \$24,000-project met with public opposition, enough that some residents put together a petition, titled 'Stop Spending.'

Shantz Crossing issues

Last April, more residents were becoming concerned with the Shantz Crossing development. Some residents brought their concerns to council during a special council meeting.

The concerns raised were mostly centred around the town increasing its debt



ATTENTION
Didsbury Agricultural Society Members
The Annual General Meeting
 will be held **Wednesday, January 9, 2013**
 at 7:30pm in the Excalibur Building.
 For more information please contact the
Ag Society Office at 403-335-4494
 or email didsagso@telus.net.

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 Didsbury Neighborhood Place 403.335.8719
 Aquatic Centre and Arena 403.335.7369

ROLLOUT CART PICK UP SCHEDULE

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Green Bin	8, 9	5, 6

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load.

Council said that its viewpoint is that the commercial tax base that Shantz would provide is its main focus.

MAY

Corporate audit petition forms

Last May, residents expressed their displeasure with the plans for Shantz Crossing by writing up a petition to do a corporate audit of the town's finances.

Headed up by Rick Lavigne, the petition saw widespread support with many residents signing it.

The town responded by asking Alberta Municipal Affairs to review the town's finances.

Bombing charges laid

Last May, charges were laid against Brian Malley, an Innisfail resident, in the bombing murder of Vicki Shachty.

The court date was postponed until July at the request of the defendant's lawyer.

JUNE

Petition gaining speed

The petition to municipal affairs to conduct a corporate audit of the town's finances was gaining speed in June, as Rick Lavigne and other supporters canvassed the petition.

DHS band album release

Didsbury High School released its fifth album, featuring some of the talent that the school has to offer.

See Year in Review p.6

Community Resources

This is a free community event listing service, sponsored by area businesses, provided to non-profit organizations or local community groups. Listing is free to any non-profit organization or community group in the

Didsbury Review distribution area. While every effort will be made to ensure each request for publication is granted, the Didsbury Review does NOT GUARANTEE publication for a variety of reasons including space

constraints. To try and accommodate as many requests as possible, please keep submissions to 20 words or less. Please have your submissions in at least two weeks prior to the date of the event you are publicizing.

HALL RENTALS:

ROSEBUD HALL RENTALS. Call 403-335-9945 or 403-335-4606.

RUGBY HALL RENTALS Call Delta @ 403-335-8767, for meetings, family events or reunions.

5-0 CLUB HALL RENTALS. For Hall rentals and/or info regarding the hall please call Joyce Gee 403-335-2861.

DIDSBUY ELKS HALL RENTALS. Call Shelley Fakir 403-335-9213.

ST. CYPRIAN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL RENTALS contact Myrna Watt 403-335-3745.

LONE PINE HALL HALL, which is located east of Didsbury, contact Jo-Anne Hannah at 403-335-4190 for rental information.

MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY HALL For meetings, community events, family or group reunions call Sharon 403-335-4288.

FALLEN TIMBER COMMUNITY HALL offers an ideal place for quiet safety meetings or fabulous social activities. Please contact Esther McMullen for information at 403-637-2270.

MELVIN HALL - www.melvinhall.ca For rentals: Emily, 403-335-3896.

CITIZENS ON PATROL - Didsbury/Carstairs. Driving in a neighbourhood near you. To volunteer call 403-335-8755.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - Membership meetings are the 2nd Wednesday in June, September, November, and January. For more info please call 403-335-3265.

DIDSBUY TOPS - Take Off Pounds Sensibly! Come and join us every Wednesday evening. For more info call Judy Coutts at 403-335-2212 or Rosemary 403-335-2835

BEAVERS TUES. - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Eldon Foote Hall. Kids 5 to 7 years old, boys and girls welcome.

KING HIRAM LODGE #21 - has its regular meetings at 8 p.m. every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

ST. HILDA CHAPTER #27 O.E.S. - Has its regular meetings at 7:30 p.m. every 3rd Tuesday of the month. For info. Call Marg Steckler at 403-335-281



Around Town with the Didsbury Library

January 9

Mountain View Christian Women's Breakfast. 9:30 to 11:30 am at Redeemer Lutheran Church Gym. \$6 per person. Free babysitting. Special feature: Dr. Julie Miller, Naturopath, will be speaking on cold and flu protection. Special music: Milbrandt Children. Special Speaker: Gladys Krueger "Stepping Stones". For reservations please call Ann 403-335-8444 or Vicki 403-335-3500.

January 9, 16, 23, 30

Volunteer Tutoring Adult Learning Services will be available at the Didsbury Library on Wednesdays from 9 am to Noon. Mtn. View Communities Adult Learning Society is offering the following services: Volunteer Tutor Adult Learning - a volunteer is matched with a learner for one-on-one learning. English Language Tutor - a volunteer is matched with a person wanting to learn to speak English.

January 10

Thank you to all the many volunteers, supporters and donors for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity. You make this program possible and you are appreciated. Our Friends & Fun Program will begin again on January 10th at 1:30 p.m. Christmas Blessings to all. Didsbury Seniors Support Services

January 23 – February 20

English Conversational Café will be held at the Didsbury Library on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Meeting space and refreshments provided by the Didsbury Library. If you need help with English language learning, drop in to have beginner conversations with local volunteers and other community members. You will have conversations in English about current events, sports, weather, entertainment, food, travel, and much more. Organized by Mtn. View Communities Adult Learning Society.

Promote your events in this column. Send info to didsburylibrary@tbs.prd.ab.ca or drop off copy at Didsbury Library 2033 19 Ave.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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\$6.98
lb



SEE YOU IN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

Church Directory

The REVIEW is pleased to provide this Church Directory as a community service

Berghal Mennonite Church

Didsbury, Alberta
5km S of the Didsbury Overpass,
8km E Berghal Rd.
Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.
For more information
phone 403-335-4451

St. Anthony's Catholic

2030 - 24 Ave, Didsbury
For more information please contact
Catholic Women's League:
Maxine Moreau 403-335-4948
Knights of Columbus:
Gary McNeil 403-335-8611
For more information
Olds St. Steven's Office
403-556-3084

Anglican Church of Canada

St. Cyprian's
2037 - 24th Ave, Didsbury - 403-335-4664
Rector - David Asher
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion - 2nd & 4th Sunday each month

West Zion Mennonite Church

westzion.com has a map for directions
Senior Pastor Mal Brauer
Youth Pastor Josh Tiel
Sunday Services 10:00 am
ALL WELCOME!

Zion Evangelical

Missionary Church
#802 Secondary Highway S2
Phone: 403-335-3629 Web: www.zemc.org
Mike Morgan, Senior Pastor
Colin Creighton, Associate Pastor
Alison Lefebvre, Youth Pastor
Christine Little, Children's Pastor
Sunday School at 9:30 am & Service to follow at
10:45 am
Programming for children up to Grade 6

Mountain View Evangelical

Missionary Church
14 km East of Didsbury Pastor Art Numan
Office: 403-335-4422
Morning Worship 11 a.m. • Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
For information concerning the weekly activities
please call the Church Office.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

Year in Review

Continued from p. 4

Because music is a focus for so many students, Kirk Wassmer, music director for the school, said that this is a good way to show off the talent of the local band students.

Museum asks for manager

The Didsbury Museum, spearheaded by Frankie Kelly, asked town council to consider hiring on a permanent part-time museum director to take over management of the historical site.

She said because everyone at the museum is a volunteer, it can lead to inconsistencies in management. With the addition of a permanent, paid position, she said that many of the inconsistencies could be eliminated.

Heritage Management Plan

Late last June, town officials completed their Heritage Management Plan, which outlines guidelines that developers will have to follow with new projects.

The guidelines will ensure that new developments maintain the historical feel of the downtown core.

JULY

Petition completed, submitted

The petition to municipal affairs was completed last July. The petition gathered a total of 741 signatures and was sent to Edmonton for review.

Waste water deal

Angle Energy and the town inked a deal for the company to use waste water from the sewage lagoons in its fracking operations in the area.

The company will be paying the town, depending on how much is used, for the duration of the three-year agreement.

Terry Fox Run

The Didsbury Fire Department pitched in and helped organize the annual Terry Fox Run in town. Though the run did not have the turnout that organizers had hoped for, Craig Martin, who spearheaded the effort, noted that it was an enjoyable event.

Pool issues arise

In late July, it came to the attention of the town that the aquatic centre would have to be closed if structurally-compromised beams were not fixed by winter.

AUGUST

Petition denied

The petition written and submitted by

Rick Lavigne was denied by Alberta Municipal Affairs after it was found that 741 signatures were not enough to be considered for a corporate audit.

Heritage Crossing

Heritage Crossing broke ground last August, after six years of planning on the behalf of Morris Monk, president of Custom Homes by Ashbury Design.

The ambitious \$7.5-million condominium complex will feature 48 high-end suites at 21 Avenue and 21 Street.

23 Street repairs

23 Street underwent repairs in August, for a cost of \$65,000. The repairs were only partially completed before winter weather halted progress.

New strip mall

Designs for a new strip mall between the Mountain View Credit Union and AG Foods were approved by council in mid-August. The building, once complete, will have 10 suites, each measuring about 1,180 square feet.

Water tower renovation

Ruth Jepson reinvigorated the iconic golfer on the water tower located at the golf course. The cost of the project was \$14,000, not including what council paid Jepson for her work.

SEPTEMBER

Council builds debt

Council approved an additional \$1.9 million to complete Shantz Crossing. The total cost of the project will be about \$3.6 million.

Arts festival

The second annual Mountain View Arts Festival in mid-September was a big hit with residents.

From Vikings to local art to live music, there was no shortage of family activities to be had over the weekend.

N-Viro treatment plant

In late September, Mayor Brian Wittal announced that N-Viro Systems Canada LP signed a letter of intent, setting out a plan to build and operate a regional organic waste processing facility.

The facility, once built, would process waste from across the county and provide the town with dividends from the sales of the fertilizer created from the waste.

OCTOBER

Lions' food drive

The annual food drive organized by the Didsbury Lions, benefiting the Mountain

View Regional Food Bank was a great success last October.

About 5,533 pounds of food were gathered from generous residents, along with \$570 in cash. The food was worth just under \$12,500, according to the food bank's calculations.

Community Engagement Site

Council voted against continuing support of the CES after coming to the conclusion that it was not a viable endeavour in Didsbury.

Despite valiant efforts by organizers, low usage of the site drove the eventual decision to shut down the facility.

Rotary Club takes shape

Organizers from the Olds Rotary Club started to garner interest from the Didsbury-Carstairs area after announcing that they wanted to help start a new Rotary club for the towns.

The first meeting was a success and the club has been increasing membership since then. Organizers are still looking for more people, as about 25 members are needed to officially charter the club.

Waymore Services fire

Despite his mechanic shop catching fire one evening in October, Rick Way had a positive attitude after the unfortunate event.

He is taking the opportunity to renovate his shop and some of his mechanics have been using the time to go to school and upgrade their tickets.

Town budget looking up

After receiving the grant of \$6.2 million from the provincial government for the sewage lagoon project, budget projections were drastically different from what had been previously released.

The new budget put the town in a much better position economically, and also allowed council to make a plan to manage and pay down the debt currently in place.

NOVEMBER

Request for review withdrawn

After discussing the state of Didsbury with Municipal Affairs Minister Doug Griffiths, the town decided not to go ahead with a corporate review by the minister's department.

The reason being, according to Wittal, that the minister and his staff did not see Didsbury as a priority, and that it is doing well compared to other municipalities in the province.

Miss Rodeo Canada

Gillian Shields, a Didsbury-area resident, was crowned Miss Rodeo Canada

2013 at a competition in Edmonton in early November.

She started her reign with the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in early December, and was still seeking sponsors at that time.

Pool remediated

The Didsbury Aquatic Centre finished the repairs necessary to stay open through the winter.

Currently, the centre, along with all other recreational facilities will be evaluated for long-term viability, and listed in the Recreation Master Plan, which will be compiled over the coming months.

Westglen School turns 25

The Didsbury middle school celebrated its 25th anniversary in late November. The school, which opened in November 1987 has changed from just a school to a community, through various traditions and events that have been carried on through the years.

DECEMBER

Country Christmas

Country Christmas was a hit, despite the chilly weather. Children had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Santa, and got to visit with some reindeer too.

Local artists and businesses showcased themselves and families took the opportunity to have a night out on the town.

Drug bust

Early last month, a Southridge Crescent resident was charged with trafficking and possession of cannabis after police found pot, crack cocaine, and prescription pills after executing a search warrant.

The 68-year-old woman is due to appear in court on Jan. 28.

Rosebud Run

The Rosebud Run was a success last month after organizers took advantage of the ideal snow conditions. The run, originally held over from last February was put together with little notice, but still saw a good turnout of both observers and mushers.

Holiday Train

The CP Holiday Train rolled into town last month, entertaining a large crowd. The children had a chance to see Santa Claus and sing along to some holiday tunes, played by Doc Walker, Miss Emily, and the Brothers Dube.



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100. Obituaries 100. Obituaries

GAMBLE

Lydia Kristine Gamble (nee Tiessen) beloved wife of Rev. John P. Gamble of Calgary, Alberta, passed away December 21, 2012, at the age of 92, in the Rocky View Hospital.

Lydia was born in Russia, to Peter and Alida Tiessen, and raised in the Drumheller area. She is survived by one younger sister, Ruth Strauss, and two nieces, Holly & husband Darryl, and Amy. Her only brother, Alfred Tiessen is deceased, but she is survived by her nephew, Jim Tiessen. She is survived by two cousins, Hilga and Skye. She has been personally cared for in the last five years by her four children, Linda McKendry & husband Jim, Eldon Gamble & wife Ruth, Gary Gamble & wife Janice, and Susan Unger & husband Terry. She was also the loving grandmother to Timothy, Kimberley, Taara, Aaron, Joshua, Jasmine, Renee, Danielle, Quinton, Anjuli and Sujina. Her great-grandchildren are Megan, Nicole, William, Lucas, Elena, twins on the way, Corban, Neo, & Justis. Her life was long and fruitful. She will be missed but met in heaven by those of us going there too. Funeral service will be held on Saturday January 5, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the Bergen Evangelical Missionary Church, Bergen. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be made directly to Canadian Bible Society (www.biblesociety.ca) or rbc Ministries (www.rbs.org). Heartland Funeral Services Ltd., Didsbury entrusted with arrangements. 403-335-4773 www.heartlandfuneralservices.com



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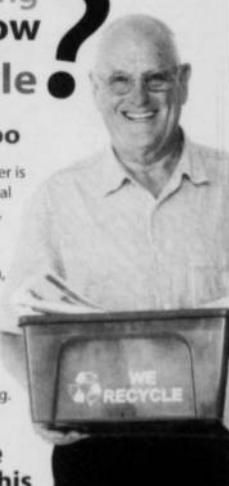
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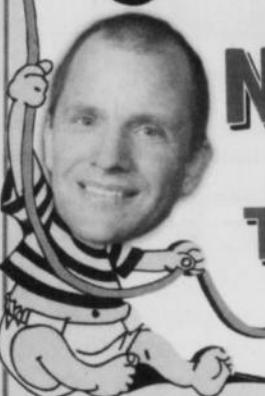
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70 Aloha Mobile Home Park, Olds



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1337 - 25 Street



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118 Valarosa Drive



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